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Did Defector Lavish CIA Money on

Woman?



ARKADY SHEVCHENKO
Pays for "companion"

From News Services

Arkady Shevchenko, the Russian who left a high United Nations post and defected to the United States, gave a young woman between \$35,000 and \$40,000 to be his "paid companion," NBC News reports.

The woman, Judy Chavez, said the money came from the CIA, but Shevchenko said it came from his U.N. severance pay of \$78,000. The CIA confirmed that it was paying the defector's living expenses and NBC quoted a spokesman as saying, "How Shevchenko spends that money is up to him."

At the request of the Soviet Union, Shevchenko, 47, was given the post of U.N. undersecretary general for political and Security Council affairs. This made him the highest-ranking Russian in the Soviet U.N. mission and was one rank below that of secretary general.

ON APRIL 10 Shevchenko disap-

peared and on April 25 applied for asylum in the United States, citing "serious differences of political philosophy and conviction with the present Soviet system." A number of published reports said Shevchenko had been in touch with U.S. officials since 1976.

Chavez approached NBC with the information that Shevchenko had met her through an escort agency, originally paid her \$500 a night, then \$5,000 a month. She said he took her with him to the Virgin Islands and bought her a \$9,000 sports car, NBC said.

Asked NBC reporter James Polk: "How much has Shevchenko given you altogether? In cash and checks?"

"Between 35 and 40 thousand dollars," Chavez said.

"Have you any indication where it was coming from?" Polk asked.

"AT ONE POINT," she replied, "the FBI called me at home. They wanted an emergency meeting with me to try to find out exactly how much money I was receiving because the CIA had asked them to question me."

"What they told me was that Arkady goes to a high official in the CIA, he in turn gives the money to Arkady, who in turn gives the money to me."

Shevchenko had made a date with Chavez for lunch, but an NBC camera crew showed up instead.

"At the present moment," he said, "I don't like to meet with the press."

Asked where the money to pay Chavez came from, Shevchenko said, "I got a lot of money from the United Nations."

Asked who paid for the Virgin Islands trip, Shevchenko said, "I had enough money. It was not expensive."

Interrupted a CIA agent: "we do not intend to comment on this."

Shevchenko had been living in a luxury apartment building in Washington using a Finnish name, and had a checking account in the \$50,000 range under his own name in a Washington bank, NBC News said.



JUDY CHAVEZ
Claims CIA gives money